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Preparatory Committee for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

24-26 February 2014

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Consideration of the outcome of the Conference based on the objectives and the theme of the Conference

Letter dated 24 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward the outcome of the interregional preparatory meeting for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (see annex), which the Group of 77 and China proposes to use as the basis for the negotiations at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

The document, which was adopted by ministers of small island developing States meeting in Barbados in August 2013, was endorsed by the Group of 77 and China at its meeting at the ambassadorial level on 28 October 2013. Comments and/or concerns that have been expressed or may be expressed by some members of the Group on the document will be taken into consideration during the course of the negotiations.

I kindly request that the outcome document be circulated as a document of the United Nations under the relevant agenda item of the Preparatory Committee for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the first meeting of which will be held from 24 to 26 February 2014.

(*Signed*) Peter **Thomson**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chair of the Group of 77

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Annex to the letter dated 24 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Small island developing States integrated and enabling cooperation framework for the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation

Outcome of the interregional preparatory meeting for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Bridgetown, Barbados

26 to 28 August 2013

1. We reaffirm the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States. We also reaffirm the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want", including the call for the convening in 2014 of a third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

2. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in acknowledgement of their unique characteristics, challenges and vulnerabilities and the ongoing impact of these on their ability to achieve sustainable development and build sustained resilience. Small island developing States remain constrained in meeting economic, environmental and social challenges. Small island developing States recognize their own responsibility in overcoming some of these challenges but stress that, in the absence of cooperation and assistance from the international community, success will remain difficult.

3. In this regard, small island developing States remain committed to ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and we urge our development partners to fulfil their commitments by providing, in a timely and predictable manner, financial and technical support to ensure the successful implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and other internationally agreed outcomes.

4. There is a need for partners to assist small island developing States in the pursuit of their goals in relation to sustainable development. The overarching theme of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be "Sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships".

5. We agree that the outcome document is the basis for the small island developing States zero draft in preparation for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (the Samoa Conference).

Our common vision for the small island developing States we want

6. We reaffirm our commitment to the unwavering pursuit of our sustainable development.

7. We take seriously our role as moral leaders in the effort to combat climate change. Our safety and very existence require urgent global action to ensure that we can overcome this threat to our peoples and nations. What is now an existential crisis for small island developing States will, in the face of inaction, become an existential crisis for all.

8. We recognize that despite being geographically dispersed across the globe, the strength of small island developing State lies in a shared vision and a commitment to collective action. Our vision can be realized only through an inclusive dialogue anchored in national ownership and through empowered partnerships based upon mutual trust, equality, respect and accountability.

9. We reaffirm our commitment to the Rio Principles and acknowledge the important role that the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Millennium Development Goals have played in focusing our development efforts, facilitating dialogue and making our development strategies more results-oriented. However, these processes have not been fully implemented and a transformational strategy is now required to bridge national sustainable development priorities and the global development agenda. We further underscore the need for the international community to adopt a more integrated approach to creating enabling environments and supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States.

10. The Samoa Conference in 2014 presents a pivotal moment in this regard and must result in an outcome that reinvigorates the commitment of the international community to a global partnership that enables small island developing States to eradicate poverty, build resilience and improve the quality of life for our peoples and nations. We must take advantage of new, meaningful opportunities for cooperation and partnership with a range of traditional and non-traditional partners.

11. We envision a post-2015 development agenda that includes an effective institutional framework for sustainable development and that takes into account the particular concerns and priorities of small island developing States. Achieving this vision requires an approach that is transparent, inclusive and built on mutual respect and accountability, in short "nothing about us without us".

12. We reaffirm the importance of cross-regional regional, and subregional organizations to mobilize support and guarantee that our priorities are reflected in the post-2015 development agenda and beyond.

13. We look to the first International Year of small island developing States in 2014 to raise awareness and galvanize action on behalf of an agenda that fulfils our development aspirations and unleashes the potential of the people of small island developing States, especially the youth as the leaders of tomorrow.

Acknowledgement of progress to date

14. As evidence of our commitment to sustainable development, small island developing States have made significant efforts at the national and regional levels to implement the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation. We have mainstreamed sustainable development principles into national development plans, policies and strategies, and undertaken political commitments to promote and raise awareness of the importance of sustainable development issues.

15. Small island developing States have demonstrated strong leadership in calling for ambitious and urgent action to address climate change, in protecting biodiversity, and in adopting strategies for promoting renewable energy.

16. In spite of our best efforts and the mobilization of our limited resources, our progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, has been uneven, requiring continued effort and support.

17. Small island developing States have made varying levels of progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, particularly in the areas of gender equality, education, environment and health, though continued efforts are required.

18. Small island developing States have successfully mobilized partnerships and cooperation arrangements to advance their sustainable development. These include partnerships among small island developing States and cooperation programmes implemented at the intraregional and interregional levels.[*]

I. Recognition of existing challenges and identification of gaps in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation

19. In spite of some progress, small island developing States continue to face significant challenges to the achievement of their sustainable development as well as to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. They have made less progress than other groupings and even regressed in economic terms and in terms of debt sustainability and poverty eradication. Ongoing exogenous shocks further exacerbate the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and negatively impact their ability to mobilize national resources for sustainable development.

20. In addition, small island developing States have not sustained high levels of economic growth and continue to be negatively impacted by, inter alia, food

[*] For example, the Global Island Partnership, the Small Island Developing States University Consortium, the Small Island Developing States-initiated sustainable energy initiative "SIDS DOCK", the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge, the Caribbean Biological Corridor, the regional centre for creating capacities for assessing risks and vulnerabilities of the region, Petrocaribe and the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management, the Pacific Water Partnership on Sustainable Water Management, Pacific peer review process, and the commitments made at the Ministerial Conference on "Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States: Challenges, Opportunities, Commitments: held in Barbados.

insecurity, lack of adequate transport networks, degradation of their coastal marine environment, limited access to fresh water, water insecurity, inadequate access to or inappropriate infrastructure, inadequate waste management systems and the global economic and financial crisis. These challenges are further compounded by climate change, saltwater intrusion, land degradation, soil erosion and deforestation. Challenges also remain in addressing non-communicable diseases; communicable diseases and environmental health; access to sexual and reproductive health care; maternal, child and adolescent health; full access to quality education at all levels; access to quality and affordable education and improvement in health-care systems.

21. Significant gaps remain in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, including, inter alia, the following.

22. The insufficient support at the international level for the research, development and utilization of renewable sources of energy and related technologies has contributed to challenges in energy sectors for small island developing States. These include, inter alia, access to sustainable energy services for all, in particular for the poor, who are unable to afford these services even when they are available; high dependence on imported fossil fuels; high inefficiency and cost; negative impact on competitiveness and employment; high consumption of foreign exchange and stress on those least able to face the challenges of an energy-deficient and costly society.

23. International action to address climate change remains grossly inadequate and emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally at a distressing rate. There is therefore an urgent need to address climate change as a cross-cutting and persistent crisis. Its related impacts, including extreme events and slow-onset events such as climate variability, temperature rise, sea-level rise and ocean acidification and security-related issues, threaten the survival and viability of small island developing States and pose a significant challenge to their sustainable development efforts.

24. The adverse impacts of climate change compound existing critical economic, environmental, social and security-related issues and place additional burdens on national responses and development systems, as well as on national budgets and efforts to achieve national sustainable development goals.

25. The absence of an international mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process to comprehensively address the loss and damage to small island developing States and other most vulnerable developing country Parties from the adverse impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, is a major gap in the international climate change regime.

26. The provision of sufficient, additional and predictable financial resources to small island developing States is critical to facilitate the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. Where funds exist, application procedures often preclude small island developing States from accessing those funds, and capacity-building efforts have not addressed this persistent problem.

27. We note the importance of ongoing initiatives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, as well as the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

28. Inadequate support of the international community for the sustainable development of small island developing States at the regional and international levels has negatively affected the full integration of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation into national plans and strategies.

29. We call attention to the need for capacity-building as well as to strengthen national institutions according to national priorities.

30. Insufficiently developed or inefficient mechanisms for the creation of an enabling environment at the international level are undermining national and regional efforts for the sustainable development of small island developing States.

31. We note the absence of adequate, coherent, consistent and coordinated support by the United Nations system to small island developing States for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

32. International financial institutions and the multilateral trading system have failed to fully recognize and take into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States, due in part to limitations and constraints on their representation and effective participation.

33. Failure to establish or strengthen and render more effective national, regional and international coordination mechanisms has had a negative impact on the full implementation and follow-up of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and of the forthcoming outcome of the Samoa Conference.

34. We note the absence of effective mechanisms to facilitate cooperation among small island developing States based on solidarity, including in research and technological development and the exchange of best practices across sectors.

35. Support from the international community has not been sufficient to facilitate the access to and development of environmentally sound technologies that are relevant to small island developing States.

36. Developed countries have failed to honour commitments to small island developing States relating to the provision of new, predictable financial resources to support the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

37. Overall declining levels of ODA to small island developing States have negatively impacted their capacity to mitigate and more effectively respond to multiple crises.

38. The presence of harmful initiatives advanced by limited-membership international organizations have a negative impact on the ability of small island developing States to mobilize financing for sustainable development, particularly as it relates to the contribution of the financial services sectors of small island developing States.

39. Access criteria to international funding and financial institutions and mechanisms are burdensome to small island developing States.

40. We note a need for greater transparency, reporting and accountability of the international funding and financial institutions.

41. The use of GDP per capita, gross national product (GNP) and gross national income as the primary measures of development masks persistent development challenges of small island developing States.

42. We note the insufficient integration of issues relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in a cross-cutting manner across the three dimensions of sustainable development.

43. We recognize that HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, influenza, polio and other communicable diseases continue to present serious challenges to the sustainable development efforts of small island developing States.

44. We recognize the need for improved access to and increased investment in formal and non-formal education, including entrepreneurial skills, training and skills development for all to address high rates of unemployment (particularly in women and youth), migration of labour and brain drain. There is a need for building and strengthening education infrastructure and increasing investment in education, particularly investment to improve the quality of education for all.

45. High rates of unemployment, particularly for women and youth, and migration of skilled labour and the resulting brain drain are factors that hinder progress in achieving sustainable development objectives for small island developing States.

46. Measures to protect and preserve the natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage practices and traditional knowledge of small island developing States have been inadequate.

47. Small island developing States have not received adequate support from the international community for assessing the overall impact of the economic, social and ecological aspects of tourism in order to plan sustainable tourism and to further develop eco- and cultural tourism.

48. Overall progress in the implementation of sustainable consumption and production projects and initiatives in small island developing States remains slow as a result of the continuing misalignment between policies and actual projects, in the light of a lack of capacity and resources.

49. Peace and security and stability provide an enabling environment for sustainable development. As such, it is necessary to recognize the ways in which the sustainable development of small island developing States is negatively impacted by crime and violence, including conflict, gang and youth violence, and transnational organized crimes, including drug and human trafficking and people smuggling, piracy, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as well as terrorism in all its forms and manifestations which threaten national stability and regional peace and security. Small island developing States require additional support to address these threats to their sustainable development.

50. We express concern that small island developing States are being increasingly impacted by issues that are transboundary in nature, such as air pollution, haze due to unregulated burning of forests, and marine litter.

51. We express our concerns about the possible effects of nuclear radiation from disasters and shipping accidents on small island developing States.

II. New opportunities and emerging challenges for the sustainable development of small island developing States

Health and non-communicable diseases

52. The burden and threat of non-communicable diseases constitute one of the major challenges for sustainable development in the twenty-first century. Preventive treatment, care and support are critical to treating non-communicable diseases.

53. Small island developing States note with concern the increase in non-communicable diseases among children, such as obesity and asthma, which, if not checked, will cause chronic stress on our health-care systems. We call upon the World Health Organization (WHO) and other stakeholders to assist in the development of specific national programmes and policies geared towards children's health.

Green economy

54. Small island developing States have the sovereignty to pursue development models that, in accordance with their national circumstances and priorities, will promote the achievement of overarching sustainable development goals. The green economy is one such model that is available to small island developing States to enhance policymaking.

55. Small island developing States reaffirm that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to pursue sustainable development. They also consider green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. Small island developing States also reaffirm paragraph 58 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want".

Information and communication technologies

56. In a globalized and interdependent world, active participation in the knowledge economy and greater use of information and communication technologies provide clear opportunities for more efficient and improved provision of services in small island developing States. In this regard, we call for scaled-up efforts by the international community to assist the efforts of small island developing States to increase connectivity and the use of information and communication technologies in small island developing States, including through greater cooperation and skills training. We encourage the establishment of overall strategies, including cybersecurity strategies and national legislation, in this regard.

III. Practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and addressing new and emerging challenges and opportunities

57. We reaffirm that empowered, genuine and durable partnerships are based upon mutual trust, equality, respect, accountability and transparency. They are anchored

in national ownership and require political will delivered through long-term, predictable commitments. Partnerships in all their forms should be utilized, enhanced and strengthened to ensure meaningful engagement and achieve the vision of self-reliance.

58. We recognize that given the vulnerabilities and the need to build the resilience of small island developing States, there is an urgent need to strengthen cooperation and ensure genuine and durable partnerships at the national, regional and international levels to address issues related to their sustainable development needs. All partnerships, irrespective of their size or economic value are worthwhile; they must assist with the implementation of national policies that help to achieve the commitments made in the Barbados Programme of Action, Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed commitments for the sustainable development of small island developing States.

59. We call on the international community to provide support to small island developing States to address the gaps in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation as well as the emerging issues outlined, which pose serious challenges to the efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development objectives. This support should include, inter alia, financing, technology transfer and capacity-building in keeping with previous commitments.

Climate change

60. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and we reaffirm the principles and provisions of the Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular that Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

61. In order to achieve the sustainable development goals of small island developing States and full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, we call for urgent global action, with developed countries taking the lead, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to keep the global average temperature increase well below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and long-term stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at well below 350 parts per million (ppm) carbon dioxide (CO_2)-equivalent levels. These actions should include the provision of increased levels of financial and technological resources.

62. There is an urgent need to address the security implications of climate change, including violation of territorial integrity, existential threat, more frequent and severe climate-related disasters, threats to water and food security, increased natural resource scarcity, and forced displacement and the human dimensions of climate change, including, where necessary, initiatives for preparing communities for relocation.

63. The full operationalization and capitalization of the Green Climate Fund by early 2014 must be prioritized, and developed countries should scale up financing to reach $100 billion per year by 2020. The Board of the Fund must implement

expeditiously the commitment contained in the governing instrument of the Green Climate Fund to balance the provision of financing for adaptation and mitigation, provide a minimum allocation floor for small island developing States and ensure simplified and prioritized access by small island developing States. Developed partners should also address as a matter of priority the replenishment of the Adaptation Fund.

64. We call for the international community to support and further efforts to secure, and operationalize, an international mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to address loss and damage resulting from the impacts of human-induced climate change.

65. We call on the international community to undertake greater political engagement and commitment on the issue of climate change and look forward to global participation in the Secretary-General's Climate Summit 2014. This Summit must result in scaled-up mitigation for the pre-2020 period, a concerted global effort by all, with developed countries taking the lead, to enhance their mitigation ambition in order to close the pre-2020 ambition gap, in particular by urgently increasing the ambition of their current targets and nationally appropriate mitigation actions, and by bringing forward mitigation action where they are yet to do so.

66. We call on developed countries to provide new, additional and predictable financial resources, technology and capacity-building, delivered in a timely and transparent manner to enable developing countries, in particular small island developing States, to implement their nationally appropriate mitigation actions and meet their adaptation needs in the short, medium and long term.

67. We recognize the importance of the effective and continuing support for REDD-Plus activities, to bridge the mitigation gap and encourage early agreement on modalities for REDD-Plus results-based financing from both public and private sources, which could include, as appropriate, market-based approaches, while ensuring that environmental integrity is preserved.

68. We support a gradual phase-down in the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons. We are exploring the use of the Montreal Protocol in this regard.

Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste

69. We call for the establishment of technical cooperation programmes to enable the creation and the strengthening of national, regional and international mechanisms for the management of wastes, including chemical and hazardous waste as well as ship-generated waste. Actions should also be taken to support sustained financing for national waste management programmes and for the further strengthening and expanded geographic coverage of oil spill contingency plans. Small island developing States also call for increased investment and cooperation in developing integrated waste management and technologies.

70. We acknowledge calls for countries to become parties to the new international treaty on mercury, the Minamata Convention, and in this regard call upon the international community to provide technical and financial assistance to small island developing States, upon request, who wish to become parties, including through support to the development or strengthening of their policy and legislative frameworks.

71. We call upon the donor community to provide support to small island developing States in the effective implementation of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in an integrated and synergistic manner at the regional and national levels. In this regard, the special programme on financing for chemicals and waste should support the establishment of national units in small island developing States, upon request, to support the effective implementation of these conventions and agreements at the national level and the achievement of the 2020 target as outlined in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

72. We call for greater assistance to take advantage of existing capacity programmes like those under the International Health Regulations (2005), which call for strengthening and management of specific risks, including control programmes for chemical and other toxic and environmental events.

73. We call for technical and financial support from the international community, including the United Nations system and development partners, to complement efforts undertaken by small island developing States to implement a Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as an important building block to enhance trade and protect the health of their populations and environment from exposure to toxic chemicals.

74. We call for the establishment of special protected zones in all small island developing States regions, where appropriate, to restrict the passage of ships carrying nuclear waste and radioactive materials through these zones.

75. We call for renewed international efforts to clean up oil reserves and residues and hazardous materials and explosives left over from ships sunk during the Second World War.

Social development

76. Empowerment of women and girls has a transformative and multiplier effect on development activities and gains, and women have the potential to be powerful agents of change. We therefore call for the enhancement of efforts towards ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are cross-cutting issues and must be realized in particular through their full participation at all levels of decision-making.

77. Small island developing States possess a wealth of culture, which is a driver and enabler for sustainable development. In particular, indigenous biocultural heritage recognizes the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment, and can meaningfully advance social development. We therefore call for increased resources for the development and strengthening of national and regional cultural activities.

78. Social development, as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development, is crucial to ensuring results on the ground, both now and in the future. We therefore call for measures to enhance social protection and inclusion, to improve well-being and guarantee opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

79. We commit to a people-centred and focused approach to poverty eradication, which should ensure that people, particularly those living in poverty, have access to

education, health care, food, water and sanitation and other public and social services and access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology, knowledge and information. The approach should enable citizens and local communities to participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes.

Health and non-communicable diseases

80. We recognize that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development. We understand that the goals of sustainable development can be achieved only in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases, and where populations can reach a state of physical, mental and social well-being.

81. We call for the full realization of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

82. We call for redoubling efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to eliminate mother-to-child transition of HIV, as well as to renew and strengthen the fight against malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases.

83. We call on the international community to provide assistance to small island developing States to develop and implement comprehensive, integrated and multisector policies and strategies for the management of the main non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases, including through capacity development and investment in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

84. Multi-stakeholder and multisectoral approaches should be adopted to address this issue, including through education and public awareness, trade, food and nutrition, sports and strengthening of the health-care system.

85. We call on the international community to support the implementation of interventions that strengthen health promotion, promote primary health care, and develop accountability mechanisms for the surveillance of non-communicable diseases.

86. Small island developing States call for further assistance in implementing the following key elements in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of non-communicable diseases:

(a) Global partnership for monitoring the implementation of the Declaration, including national and regional accountability mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Political Declaration;

(b) Ensuring non-communicable diseases are among the development priorities of Member States;

(c) Instituting fiscal and regulatory measures for development of or adherence to nationally set target levels for fat, sugar and salt in food and beverages;

(d) Common approach and solidarity in addressing the trade barriers to increasing access to more healthy affordable foods for the population.

87. A mechanism should be developed with support from the relevant United Nations and international organizations to enable cooperation among small island developing States for non-communicable diseases, including optimal use of the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange System of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In this regard, we seek support to utilize existing international forums to have biennial meetings of small island developing States ministers of health and appropriate non-health sectors to address issues relating to implementing the Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases.

Food security

88. Small island developing States, being primarily net food-importing countries, are exceptionally vulnerable to availability and price volatility of food imports. We also stress the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of the people of the small island developing States.

89. Small island developing States call on large, food-producing countries to refrain from applying export restrictions on staple food products. They also call for support in the development of robust crop insurance schemes for farmers, particularly small farmers, to compensate for any economic losses due to the adverse impacts of climatic events and natural disasters and to cater for food shortages resulting from natural disasters.

90. Small island developing States further call on the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to facilitate a special meeting on food and nutrition security in small island developing States in order to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing small island developing States.

91. We urge that progress in identifying and mainstreaming strategies that can further assist small island developing States in developing their national capacity to conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries, including through improved market access for fish products from developing countries as mandated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, with the aim of completion in advance of the Samoa Conference.

92. We reaffirm the necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger and is economically viable, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters. We also recognize the need to maintain natural ecological processes that support food production systems.

Oceans and seas

93. Small island developing States are custodians of vast expanses of oceans and as such they must have ownership of strategies concerning the sustainable development of oceans. Fisheries, coastal tourism, possible exploitation of seabed resources, potential sources of renewable energy: these are the building blocks of an ocean-based economy. By emphasizing the economic power of the ocean economy,

small island developing States, as large ocean States, can seize their competitive advantage and carve a niche in the global economy.

94. States commit to making progress in the context of the Ad Hoc Working Group and to the development of a specific legal regime for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and to that end, to initiate, as soon as possible, the negotiation of an implementing agreement to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which would address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, and as a single undertaking, marine genetic resources, including access and benefit-sharing, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine-protected areas, and environmental impact assessments, marine scientific research, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. Building on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group and before the end of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, we commit to address, on an urgent basis, the issue of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, including by taking a decision on the development of an international instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

95. We endorse ongoing efforts to establish a global network to monitor ocean acidification, particularly in vulnerable ecosystems, such as coral reefs, and areas of high vulnerability such as coastal regions, and provide relevant measures to enable scientists from small island developing States to be integrated into international research teams.

96. Land-based pollution resulting from agricultural processes, deforestation, urban expansion, and other anthropogenic activities have detrimental impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems. There is a need for the implementation of relevant instruments where these exist and, as applicable, the development of stronger regional and national instruments or programmes on controlling land-based sources of pollution.

97. We call upon the international community to support the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Seas Global Strategy, which is aimed at addressing the degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. We call, further, for support to be provided to small island developing States to address gaps at the national and regional levels relating to coastal zone management and land-based sources of pollution to the marine environment.

98. We urge the provision of increased means and resources at the national and regional levels for research and the implementation of plans and strategies on coastal zone management as well as ecosystem-based management.

99. There is also an urgent need to enhance environmental impact assessment requirements for regional fisheries management organizations with ocean management or governance responsibilities to improve the resilience of marine ecosystems, including to ocean acidification.

100. We call on the international community to support efforts by small island developing States to enhance and implement the regime for monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels, to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate illegal,

unreported and unregulated fishing, including by investing in institutional capacity at the national, regional and international levels to:

(a) Ensure compliance with national laws and international conservation management measures;

(b) Improve the exchange and utilization of information among States;

(c) Strengthen the regime for cooperation in fisheries enforcement at the regional and international levels;

(d) Enhance cooperation among market States, port States, flag States and coastal States to allow for catch documentation throughout the market chain.

101. We assert the need to recommit to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss in the marine environment at all levels and to establish a global network of ecologically representative area-based management measures. To this end, the international community should provide technical and financial support to advance this critical work.

102. Small island developing States recognize the value of requiring compliance with certain areas, where appropriate, of targeted high seas closures to fisheries as a condition of access to fisheries resources, to promote sustainable fisheries.

103. We call on the international community to further support national and regional efforts by small island developing States to assess, conserve and sustainably manage their marine resources by agreeing to provide new additional and predictable financial and technical assistance to:

(a) Promote the full recognition of the special requirements of small island developing States in regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, including through the development and implementation of regional fisheries management organization/arrangement-based and national measures to increase the ability of small island developing States to control fishing at levels that provide for ecologically sustainable returns to their growing economies;

(b) Provide for enhanced participation by small island developing States within fisheries and fisheries-related industries in order to overcome critical barriers to sustainable development and to make concerted efforts and consider innovative options to reduce or restructure their fleets so as to accommodate aspirations of small island developing States to further develop their own fisheries.

104. We support the implementation of regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, the Coral Triangle Initiative on coral reefs, fisheries and food security and the Micronesia Challenge, to aid the achievement of Aichi target 11 under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

105. We call on the international community to assist small island developing States with the development of their marine scientific and technological capacity and to provide the necessary technical assistance to small island developing States for the preparation and submission of information in accordance with the procedures of the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the

Continental Shelf. We further call on States to make further voluntary financial or other contributions to the trust funds established for these purposes.

106. We further call for the establishment of dedicated regional oceanographic centres with support from the United Nations system and relevant regional organizations.

107. We urge the international community to develop approaches and mechanisms to ensure that the burden of conservation and management of ocean resources is not disproportionately transferred to small island developing States.

108. We call for baseline marine research and resource mapping.

109. We call for the assistance of the international community to protect coral reefs and to take urgent action to develop and implement comprehensive and integrated appr aches for their management and enhancement.

110. We further call on States and relevant international institutions to improve efforts to address coral bleaching by, inter alia, improving monitoring to predict and identify bleaching events, supporting and strengthening action taken during such events, and improving strategies to manage reefs to support their natural resilience and enhance their ability to withstand other pressures, including ocean acidification.

111. We urge the international community to assist small island developing States, upon their request, in undertaking marine scientific research in the seabed area beyond national jurisdiction with a view to understanding the benefits to be accrued from the prospecting, exploration and future exploitation of these resources.

112. Small island developing States call on the international community and relevant United Nations agencies to support the establishment of a postgraduate programme for the sustainable development, utilization and management of coastal and marine resources of small island developing States through the Small Island Developing States University Consortium.

Biodiversity

113. We call for additional support to small island developing States to facilitate their ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity as a means of ensuring the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and the transfer of appropriate technologies, taking into account the rights of small island developing States over their own resources and technologies.

114. Small island developing States also call for further assistance from developed countries in the development and implementation of appropriate mechanisms to reduce the negative impacts of genetically modified organisms on biodiversity.

Forests

115. We call for support in the sustainable management of forests including in the implementation of the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests and in accessing financing support to national sustainable forest management. We also call for enhanced efforts to achieve reforestation, restoration and afforestation, and we

support all efforts that effectively slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, including, inter alia, promoting trade in legally harvested forest products.

Sustainable energy

116. We highlight the efforts of small island developing States in the area of sustainable energy, including through the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States, aimed at promoting transformational and innovative activities in the areas of, inter alia, access to affordable, modern energy services, renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies, and low carbon development, in the context of sustainable development, including, on a voluntary basis, the commitments by many small island developing States to undertake the actions contained in annex I to this Declaration.

117. We call on the international community, including regional and international development banks, bilateral donors, the United Nations system, the International Renewable Energy Agency and the private sector, to provide adequate and predictable financial support and investments as well as technological transfer and capacity-building to develop and implement national, regional and interregional energy policies, plans and strategies to address the special vulnerabilities of small island developing States.

118. We call for the establishment of regional data repositories, upon request by Member States, in small island developing States regions where there is no mechanism in place. The regional data repository is envisioned as an online energy database of both raw and processed information that is user-friendly, accurate and comprehensive. Technical studies are required to be conducted on grid stability and innovative storage mechanisms.

119. We call for an integrated approach to establishing or strengthening innovative regional and national energy road maps, with strong emphasis on both renewable energy and energy efficiency, detailed resource planning, and energy storage and capacity development, taking into account social, environmental and economic considerations. We further call for improved access to energy for poor and remote areas in small island developing States.

120. We call for the establishment of a finance mechanism for the implementation of renewable energy projects in small island developing States.

121. Support should be provided to enhance regional and interregional cooperation among small island developing States for research and technological development and implementation of appropriate renewable energy and energy-efficient and environmentally sound technologies. Such cooperation should include, inter alia, the provision of concessionary loans and direct investment in the development of the renewable energy sector, exchange of best practices, access to efficient technologies, smart grid technology development and internationally recognized regulatory frameworks for renewable energy.

Disaster risk reduction

122. We call for support to be provided to small island developing States in their efforts to build resilience and reduce risks associated with natural disasters in areas

and sectors vulnerable to climate change threats and for support to assist small island developing States in effectively addressing the multiple effects of their vulnerabilities through the adoption of sustainable development strategies. We call, further, for special consideration to be given to financing for early warning systems to reduce economic and social losses, as well as the loss of human lives. Support is also required to mitigate the negative impacts of natural disasters, particularly as it regards recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

123. Support should be provided to small island developing States for the implementation of the internationally agreed framework for disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action.

124. We call for support to small island developing States in the establishment and strengthening of catastrophic risk insurance facilities.

125. We call for special consideration to be given to small island developing States for financing of early warning systems, pre-disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery. Support should be in the form of grants instead of loans.

Sustainable consumption and production

126. Small island developing States call on all countries to promote sustainable consumption production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio Principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

127. Small island developing States also recognize that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development reaffirmed that promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is one of the three overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development. We further recognize the commitment to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption production patterns with the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and that sustainable consumption production continue to be a priority for small island developing States as included in chapter XV of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

128. Small island developing States further call for the establishment of a small island developing States-specific support platform within the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, with emphasis on small and medium enterprises, sustainable tourism, sustainable lifestyles and education for sustainable development. Support should also be provided to additional programmes for the 10-year framework, including sustainable waste management and sustainable food systems, including food security, to encourage linkages in the sustainable supply chain to promote rural development.

Enabling factors

Financing

129. We call on bilateral donors, international financial institutions and the United Nations system to ensure the provision of new and additional, predictable, financial resources in order to give strong support to small island developing States in their

efforts for our sustainable development, in accordance with national priorities and needs.

130. We further call for the establishment of a dedicated mechanism to provide financing to developing countries, in keeping with the ongoing follow-up processes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in order to develop specific projects and programmes on sustainable development which would be implemented through United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The modalities for supporting the projects would include multilateral, bilateral and triangular cooperation, as appropriate, and with special consideration given to proposals from small island developing States.

131. We call for the development of alternative measurements for assessing the progress made in the sustainable development of small island developing States that take into account the special circumstances, vulnerabilities and low resilience of small island developing States.

132. We call for further development of international access arrangements and modalities that allow developing countries, particularly small island developing States, direct access to financing for sustainable development, including climate and environmental financing. Support is required from development partners to strengthen the national capacities, including human and institutional capacities, of small island developing States to increase their readiness to take advantage of direct access financing arrangements.

133. We call for dedicated attention to the special challenges in financing sustainable development in small island developing States, including their access to concessionary sources of financing, to implement the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and the outcome of the Samoa Conference. We call further for these challenges to be considered in the context of the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and other related bodies addressing financing for development.

Capacity-building

134. Building on the lessons and successes of Capacity 2015, small island developing States call for a coordinated and coherent United Nations system-wide capacity initiative for small island developing States through country teams, in collaboration with regional commissions and regional intergovernmental organizations, that focuses on enhancing national capacities and institutions towards the fresher implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

135. Urgent attention and support is required by small island developing States to build national capacity, to conduct and utilize cost-benefit analysis and to support informed and participatory decision-making in small island developing States on sustainable development. This could include small island developing States-specific cost-benefit analysis models to evaluate the projected implementation impact of multilateral environmental agreements over the short, medium and long term. That tool should inform policymakers of the technical and financial requirements related to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and related instruments prior to accession/ratification. It should also be able to evaluate social, economic, environmental and governance requirements and impacts.

136. We call for investments in education and other training programmes to develop the human capacity and human resources of small island developing States in order to build the resilience of their societies and economies, given that people are their greatest natural resource.

137. We call for the international community to support efforts by small island developing States to increase investment in education, training and skills development for all, as well as improving access to formal and non-formal education including entrepreneurial skills, including through formal and non-formal means such as the use of distance teaching and the development of small island developing States-appropriate training approaches.

138. We call on the international community to strengthen national institutions to complement capacity-building. Institution-building is an important component of international support to small island developing States, and both capacity-building and institution-building should be reflected in all cooperation frameworks and partnerships, as well as in the priorities and work programmes of all United Nations agencies providing assistance to small island developing States. Institution-building encourages the use of country systems and promotes the retention of knowledge in all its forms, including traditional knowledge, within a country.

139. We further call for a dedicated small island developing States intensive training for sustainable development programme. That training programme should be located in the Small Island Developing States University Consortium and should be tailored to address common-priority thematic capacity constraints identified in the preparatory process of the Samoa Conference. In addition, there is a need at the regional level for an annual training course on the United Nations system, with emphasis on small island developing States issues. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and universities and other relevant institutions should be approached in that regard.

Technology transfer

140. We call for the provision of finance, access to information and intellectual property rights and the transfer of appropriate technologies in keeping with the commitments in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In particular, we urge the promotion, facilitation and financing, as appropriate, and the development, transfer and diffusion of affordable, small island developing States-adapted and environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how to the small island developing States, on favourable terms. This is critical to complement the national efforts of small island developing States in promoting environmentally sustainable development.

141. In this regard, we call for the establishment of a dedicated technology transfer facilitation mechanism to provide, inter alia, environmentally sound and appropriate technologies to countries, in particular small island developing States, in keeping with the ongoing processes relating to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in order to support sustainable development projects, to be implemented through the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The modalities for supporting the projects will include multilateral, bilateral and triangular cooperation, as well as a particular facility for small island developing States in order to provide affordable and small island developing States-adapted technologies.

142. We call for the early integration and support for scientific and academic institutions in small island developing States within the Climate Technology Centre and Network established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Data collection and management

143. A data revolution in small island developing States is required to enable effective follow-up and evaluation of implementation and indicate our level of success in attainment of the internationally agreed development goals.

144. We call for the strengthening of data systems and partnership initiatives where they exist and for the establishment of linkages and partnership to existing initiatives. Ownership of data and information collected and deposited will remain the property of the Governments of small island developing States within those regions.

145. We reaffirm the need for the United Nations system to collect statistics from small island developing States, irrespective of size and in the least burdensome way, by, inter alia, allowing electronic submission and, where appropriate, submissions through competent regional agencies.

146. We call on the United Nations Statistics Division, UNEP and all other United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations to support the establishment of a small island developing States sustainable development statistics and information programme with emphasis on upgrading national statistical systems and mainstreaming sustainable development data collection and analysis.

147. We call for dedicated support from the United Nations Statistical Commission within the context of the elaboration of the sustainable development goals as it relates to small island developing States, in line with the ongoing process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

148. We call for dedicated support by UNEP to produce a dedicated small island developing States Global Environment Outlook report within the context of future Global Environment Outlook reports and the inclusion of information as it relates to small island developing States in the Global Chemicals Outlook report based on small island developing States-appropriate indicators.

149. We call on the international community to assist in the establishment of national and regional information and communications technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in small island developing States to facilitate information exchange and cooperation among small island developing States. This initiative should be linked to existing information and communication platforms such as the Small Island Developing States Network.

Partnerships and technical cooperation

150. We call upon the international community to increase all forms of partnerships and to enhance cooperation, including North-South, South-South, triangular and especially among small island developing States, while reaffirming that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

151. We call on all Governments and private sector partners to work closely with small island developing States through effective, innovative and concrete partnerships for the full implementation of small island developing States sustainable development priorities as identified in the outcome document. We further call for the active engagement of civil society, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, all major groups, the United Nations system and all relevant national and regional stakeholders, ensuring the success of these partnerships.

152. The Samoa Conference should serve as a forum for the launch of innovative and concrete partnerships to advance the sustainable development of small island developing States and thus reaffirm the need to define parameters for the documentation, categorization and monitoring of partnerships to ensure that past and future commitments made to small island developing States are backed by practical and accountable partnerships that can be monitored to ensure subsequent implementation.

153. A private sector-focused small island developing States interregional and intraregional trade information and facilitation platform should be established to facilitate information-sharing. We call further for the creation of an enabling environment that fosters entrepreneurship and innovation, builds capacity and increases the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises and new social actors of small island developing States economies.

154. We call for the establishment of a small island developing States interregional technical cooperation agreement, which will allow for the further strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme, and the exchange of technical expertise and information on sustainable development priority areas for small island developing States.

155. We call for financial support, technical assistance and strengthened cooperation among small island developing States as well as other multilateral cooperation, including strengthening the existing multilateral regimes, to address threats to peace and security, which negatively impact the sustainable development of small island developing States.

Institutional support to small island developing States

156. The United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners are urged to continue and strengthen support for small island developing States in their efforts to implement national development strategies and programmes.

157. We call on the international community to provide resources to support the United Nations system in providing for regular meetings of small island developing States national focal points to allow for the exchange of views and best practices regarding the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and the outcome of the Samoa Conference.

158. There is an urgent need to assess whether the current mandates and operational functioning of United Nations entities, including the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Office for the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Inter-agency

Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States are sufficient to provide the support required to small island developing States. It is also necessary to identify the level of financial resources and institutional capacity needed for the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to enhance the delivery of projects on the ground and to enhance overall effectiveness. The Samoa Conference will provide an opportunity to pursue more effective implementation of existing mandates for small island developing States and to ensure clear delineation of the roles, accountability, an accurate reflection of current realities and an assessment of the ability of United Nations entities to address new and emerging issues.

159. United Nations entities need to build institutionalized support to small island developing States into their programmes at both the national and regional levels, in particular, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and to undertake activities that are responsive to the needs of small island developing States, as articulated by the small island developing States themselves. In this regard, United Nations development entities should incorporate small island developing States-related activities into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks. The United Nations Secretariat should enhance the human and financial resources currently available to work on small island developing States issues.

160. Small island developing States issues should be mainstreamed and fully taken into account across the work of the United Nations development system and should be included in the agenda of the high-level political forum and reformed Economic and Social Council with appropriate linkages to national and regional implementation mechanisms.

161. We call upon the international community to provide increased support for regional institutions that play a key role in the monitoring and implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, as appropriate and upon request.

162. We further call on the United Nations regional commissions to play a significant role in supporting small island developing States in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and the outcome of the Samoa Conference, including by working in close cooperation with small island developing States' own existing regional institutions.

163. We call on the United Nations system to help ensure coherence between the national, regional and global processes and better link these processes towards ensuring that the national capacities and institutions of small island developing States are connected with the ongoing global processes to ensure the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and the outcome of the Samoa Conference.

164. We call on the United Nations system, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to strengthen their coordination and support to small island developing States that are considering or have already begun to adopt elements of a national green economy model.

165. We call for due consideration of the vulnerability of small island developing States by the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Committee for Development Policy, in their assessment of small island

developing States, particularly in relation to their categorization as least developed countries.

Addressing systemic imbalances

Trade

166. Given the vulnerability of small island developing States and their disadvantage with regard to traditional markets, the formulation and implementation of an effective trade policy is important in the development and strengthening of the economic resilience of small island developing States.

167. Small island developing States call for further technical assistance through Aid for Trade and other programmes to strengthen their capacity to effectively participate in the multilateral trading system by addressing their limited capacity to implement trade commitments and to develop trade policy. They continue to require technical assistance for capacity-building and institution-building to assist them in understanding trade rules and disciplines, negotiating and implementing trade agreements, and formulating and administering coherent trade policies.

168. Small island developing States call for increased support to assess the implications of and mitigate the impact of non-tariff measures for their market access opportunities, considering that these measures have increased with the reduction of tariff barriers through trade liberalization and can constitute barriers to markets of vital importance to small island developing States.

169. We acknowledge the World Trade Organization (WTO) fast-track accession system for least developed countries, which has supported the accession of some small island developing States, and further call for enhanced trade-related assistance to allow for the remaining small island developing States in the accession process in WTO that are not least developed countries to also be placed on the fast track. We call for the application of WTO roles in a flexible manner for small island developing States and for the WTO work programme on small economies to take into account the special vulnerabilities of small island developing States, which limit their ability to fully integrate into the global economy.

170. Small island developing States call for the development and strengthening of partnerships, such as those undertaken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and other organizations, to enhance their participation in the international trade in goods and services, build their productive capacities and address their supply-side constraints. We further call on UNCTAD to place greater emphasis on the needs of small island developing States to assist their further integration into the global trading system.

171. We urge partners in various trade and economic agreements to recognize the special circumstances of small island developing States, and in view of the exceptional situation currently prevailing in the global economy, to extend the provision of trade preferences, for a sufficiently long period of time, to assist them in their response to the global economic challenges as they seek to achieve economic growth and development.

Participation in the international financial system

172. Small island developing States call for international support to national and regional initiatives that serve to enhance the voice and participation of small island developing States in the decision-making and norm-setting processes of the international financial system.

173. Small island developing States call for international support to national and regional initiatives that help to increase the capacity and developmental impact of the financial services industry in small island developing States.

Debt sustainability

174. We call on the international community and financial institutions to exercise increased flexibility with respect to the Debt Sustainability Framework and the eligibility for debt relief, the provision of increased funds for debt rollover, innovative debt swap criteria and increased concessionalities, and to accelerate previous commitments regarding debt relief, taking into account the extreme vulnerability of small, indebted, middle-income countries whose size, fragile economies and open markets have made them highly susceptible to external financial shocks.

175. We call for the expansion of grant and concessional financing to small, indebted, middle-income countries to mitigate the significant sustainable development challenges that have been exacerbated by the ongoing global and financial crisis. Access to such financing should be based on factors that go beyond GDP, which itself is a poor indicator of economic sustainability.

176. We reaffirm the need for a "smooth transition" of small island developing States that have recently graduated from least developed country status. All but one of the countries that have recently graduated or are about to graduate from least developed country status have been small island developing States, and once they graduate and lose their access to concessionary financing, commercial loans become their only option as they seek to diversify and strengthen their economies. As a result, many have fallen heavily into debt. We call for urgent action to extend the transition period until the vulnerability of the graduating country has been adequately addressed.

IV. Small island developing States priorities for the post-2015 development agenda

177. We affirm that the priorities for small island developing States in the design of the post-2015 development agenda should build on the outcome of the Samoa Conference.

178. We further affirm the need to establish a global enabling environment inclusive of national and regional dimensions for the post-2015 development agenda that takes into consideration the need for the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and the outcome of the Samoa Conference.

179. We call on the international community to support small island developing States to continue to undertake dialogue at the regional and interregional levels, to

allow for the further analysis and elaboration of small island developing States priorities to ensure that small island developing States effectively participate in the global process for the design of the post-2015 development agenda.

180. Small island developing States are of the view that the post-2015 development agenda should include small island developing States-specific issues given their unique and persistent structural vulnerabilities; the fact that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development; and the need for global cooperation, partnership and continued commitment to build their resilience. We therefore call for a post-2015 development agenda that places sustainable development at its core and promotes prosperity for all small island developing States.

181. Small island developing States call for a post-2015 development agenda that is people-centred and focuses on eradicating poverty, engendering equality and achieving environmental sustainability.

182. Small island developing States recognize that sustainable resources management in the context of land, water and food security, agriculture and biodiversity is a critically important consideration that deserves to be supported as it encompasses the political, social, economic and environmental dimensions of the post-2015 development agenda. The need for land for agriculture, food and water security, and economic and social development must be balanced with the need for ecosystem conservation and biodiversity preservation.

183. Small island developing States recognize their critical need to address the emerging health crisis represented by non-communicable diseases and call for health issues to feature prominently in the post-2015 development agenda.

184. In the context of the post-2015 development agenda, small island developing States call for a continued commitment to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption production patterns, including through the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production and the small island developing States-specific support platform contained within it.

185. Small island developing States call for the elaboration of appropriate indices that better reflect the vulnerability of small island developing States and guide them to adopt more informed policies and strategies for building and sustaining long-term resilience. In that respect, all aspects outlined in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation should be taken into account in formulating these indices. Resilience-building should underpin the creation of sustainable development goals and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

186. Establishment of a robust global monitoring system would strengthen accountability at al levels and ensure adequate and timely analysis of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, as well as the outcome of the Samoa Conference, as an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda. The post-2015 development agenda must therefore, where appropriate, include clear targets and indicators in this area that are relevant and meaningful to small island developing States.

187. Small island developing States also require dedicated support for the ongoing processes in follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable

Development and in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, in particular the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.

188. We call for the inclusion of climate change as a cross-cutting issue in the elaboration of sustainable development goals, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

189. We underscore that healthy, productive and resilient oceans are a critical source of livelihoods and an important element of identity for the people of the small island developing States, and we conclude that oceans are a thematic priority and should be prominently reflected in the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 agenda, including through consideration of a thematic sustainable development goal.